

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) An apparatus for removing hair from one of teeth of a comb and bristles of a brush, comprising:

a first rotating shaft;

~~a plurality of at most two~~ whips extending from the first rotating shaft for cyclically passing through one of a comb receiving position and a brush receiving position; and

a suction arrangement generating an air stream in proximity to one of the comb receiving position and the brush receiving position, the air stream sucking the hair from the one of the teeth of the comb and the bristles of the brush,

wherein a first whip of the ~~plurality of at most two~~ whips is spaced from a second whip of the ~~plurality of at most two~~ whips by a predetermined distance so that, during use of the apparatus, the first whip does not interfere with the second whip, the first and second whips acting on one of the comb and the brush individually.

20. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising:
a collecting arrangement collecting the hair sucked by the suction arrangement.

21. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 19, ~~wherein the at least one rotating shaft includes~~ further comprising:

a second rotating shaft, the second rotating shaft being parallel to the first rotating shaft, the second rotating shaft including a third whip extending therefrom.

22. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the first and second rotating shafts are rotating ~~rotate~~ in opposite directions so that the first and third whips converge from one of the comb and brush receiving positions towards the ~~suction~~ air stream.

23. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the first and second rotating shafts are separated from one another by a particular distance, the particular distance being substantially equal to a length of the first whip.

24. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the first whip is flexible.

25. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the first whip is mounted ~~[[...?]]~~ on a whip-holder hub.

26. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein each of the first and second whips includes a free end of a ~~continuos~~ continuous thread wound on a reel which is attached to the first rotating shaft.

27. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the first and second whips are mounted on respective removable whip-holder hubs.

28. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 27, further comprising:
a plurality of ~~scrappers~~ scrapers situated tangentially to at least one of the first and second rotating shafts and the respective whip-holder hubs.

29. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 19, ~~wherein the apparatus has a~~ containing further comprising:

a box-shaped body, the body having an aperture through which the first whip extends toward one of the comb receiving position and the brush receiving position, the aperture providing an inlet of air for the ~~suction~~ air stream, the body having aeration slits.

30. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the aperture is located at a top side of the box-shaped body.

31. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 29, further comprising:
a protective shell situated at the aperture.
32. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 31, wherein the protective shell has an access door urged toward a closed position, the protective shell interacting with a safety switch.
33. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the box-shaped body includes an extractable drawer-like container collecting the hair, the container including a hair-retaining filter.
34. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the box-shaped body includes an inspection door positioned ~~corresponding to~~ as a function of a position of the first whip.
35. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising:
a motor capable of operating a fan of the suction arrangement and the first rotating shaft.
36. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 21, further comprising:
a motor capable of operating a fan of the suction arrangement and the first rotating shaft;
a first motion transmission arrangement situated between a driving shaft of the motor and the first rotating shaft; and
a second motion transmission arrangement situated between the first and second rotating shafts. [[--.]]
37. (New) An apparatus for removing hair from one of teeth of a comb and bristles of a brush, comprising:
a first rotating shaft;
a plurality of whips extending from only one of an end and an area adjacent the end of the

first rotating shaft for cyclically passing through one of a comb receiving position and a brush receiving position; and

a suction arrangement generating an air stream in proximity to one of the comb receiving position and the brush receiving position, the air stream sucking the hair from the one of the teeth of the comb and the bristles of the brush,

wherein a first whip of the plurality of whips is spaced from a second whip of the plurality of whips by a predetermined distance so that, during use of the apparatus, the first whip does not interfere with the second whip, the first and second whips acting on one of the comb and the brush individually.